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BULLETIN

of the
**MAHONING COUNTY
MEDICAL SOCIETY**

Volume XLVIII

MARCH, 1978

Number 3



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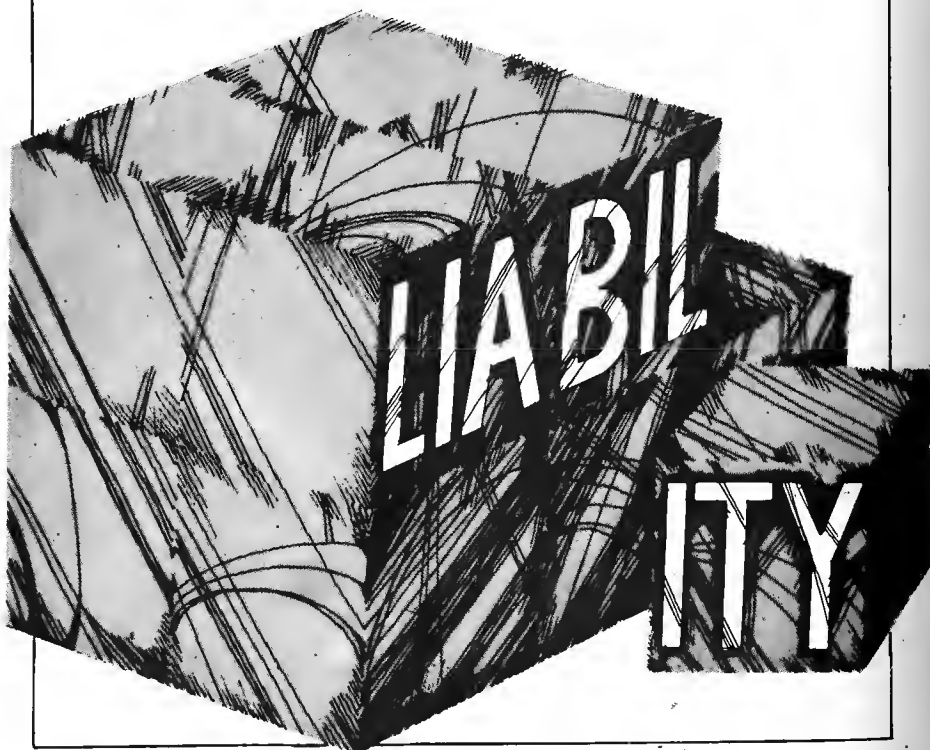
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MAHONING COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS — 1978

Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Jan. 17	Mar. 21	May 16	Sept. 19	Nov. 21	Dec. 19

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From the Desk of the President

Over the past several years there has been a steady escalation in the number and amounts of malpractice claims against the physician. In the vast majority of cases, when litigation goes to the courts the doctor is exonerated. One can hardly measure the intangible, but nonetheless substantial, non-monetary damage in mental and emotional anguish the physician goes through in the trying times of a law suit. I know all too well, having gone through that route myself.

Undoubtedly, there has been an increased amount of tension and hostility between the two professions of law and medicine. The doctor has become suspicious of his legal colleagues and feels little disposed to cooperate with the attorney when a non-malpractice personal injury case comes into being. Regardless, the physician has a responsibility to care for his patient to the best of his ability; but over and above this, he has some legal, if not moral, obligation to furnish the necessary information when litigation is initiated by his patient to recover for damages.

The Mahoning County Bar Association has in general agreed to the following:

- a) Setting guidelines to provide for taking the deposition of physicians as often as possible (to minimize court appearances).
- b) Setting guidelines for giving reasonable advance notice to physicians when their presence in court will be required.
- c) Setting guidelines for prepaying the reasonable charges for requested medical reports.
- d) Setting guidelines for protecting the physician fee bill balance.

These are, in general, reasonable initiatives on the part of our legal brethren. In exchange they are desirous of setting guidelines for basic reasonable charges for medical reports, court appearances and depositions. It is my feeling that, as an officer of your County Medical Society, I have absolutely no authority to set or recommend fees that you charge your patients. To extend this further, in no way can I set up a fee schedule you charge attorneys. You must decide that which you consider just and reasonable and I have so informed the Bar Association representative.

Obviously, there are a small few who charge fees that are abnormally high or even outrageous. To those I can only advise "fiscal temperance". As to a final guideline, that of furnishing a medical report within a reasonable time, I can only say that common courtesy, if not to the lawyer, to the patient you have cared for, at least demands it.

In many ways, I disagree with the attorneys as to the fee for services. We as physicians care for patients on a strictly fee for service basis. The size of our fee remains the same whether the patient and attorney collect a windfall settlement or lose the case completely. We do not give care to patients "on contingency". I therefore must make a plea to our legal colleagues that they urge their clients to set up some mechanism for paying their just medical bills, since these are not contingent upon legal settlement. They exist as a financial obligation, over and above the outcome of any legal maneuver. I can not understand the proposition that a physician be forced to wait for as much as two and three years to collect a fee for services rendered. If you are so forced to wait, is your bill then null and void (after this undue wait) on the unsuccessful legal action??

—George H. Dietz, M.D.
President.



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Volume XLVIII

MARCH, 1978



Number 3

The opinions and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial staff nor the official views of the Mahoning County Medical Society.

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Dean J. Limbert, M.D.

EDITOR EMERITUS

James L. Fisher, M.D.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Robert R. Fisher, M.D.

John C. Melnick, M.D.

James A. Lambert, M.D.

Jack Schreiber, M.D.

Editorial

As we enter the last half of the 20th century there are new challenges that are being thrust on the medical profession which will have long lasting repercussions. One of these concerns recombinant DNA research. The possibility of cloning human beings in the future is now within the realm of possibility.

Medicine in society has always practiced negative eugenics in order to prevent the pollution of the human gene. However, there is no precedence for the practice of positive eugenic activity. There are certain essential values such as the dignity of each individual person, the freedom of each individual to reproduce or not reproduce, or to choose a spouse freely which are presently being challenged. These will ultimately deny humans control of their own destiny.

There is a spiritual dimension of each individual which is unrelated and beyond the physical dimensions of our existence. Cloning will produce physical characteristics void of any spiritual dimension. Man is now the creator and not the created.

Questions of DNA research should be a matter of public debate which should be open to the entire community before an intelligent decision can be made.

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us go forward with a strong and active faith."

(Any opposing views to the above comments are welcome and will be published.)

—Dean J. Limbert, M.D.,
Editor



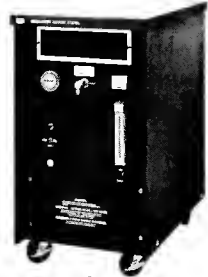
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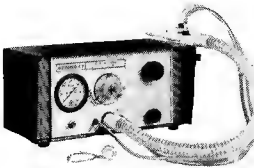
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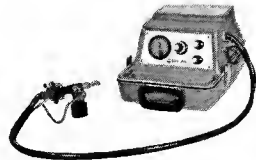


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PHYSICIAN EFFECTIVENESS IS MARCH TOPIC

Dr. Perry R. Ayres, Columbus physician, and Robert D. Clinger, OSMA staff health education manager, will address the March 21st meeting of the Mahoning County Medical Society on the OSMA Physician Effectiveness Program.

The program was established July 1, 1975 for the express purpose of aiding physicians who develop problems such as alcohol, drug addiction, or mental illness.

The program was outlined in a number of articles printed in the November, 1977 issue of the *Ohio State Medical Journal*, which featured an article on the physician alcoholic by Dr. Ayers.

The business portion of the meeting will include an important decision to be made concerning Medical Society finances. Wives and husbands of members are invited. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., preceded by a social hour, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Reservations may be made at the Medical Society office.

MORE MUSEUM ITEMS RECEIVED

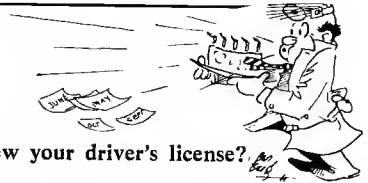
The History Committee of the Mahoning County Medical Society wishes to note the receipt of several items during the past month and to publicly thank the donors.

Thanks go to Dr. John S. Goldcamp for several items including a slit lamp and a parimeter. Thanks to Drs. Evans, Ruth and Gregg for several boxes of old instruments and assorted items; and thanks to Dr. Musli Karmindro for a very old metal cabinet with marble shelves.

Dr. Melnick, chairman, asks that all members take note of the "Don't Throw It Away" ad in this and every issue of the *Bulletin*. All donations are gratefully received.

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March 17
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J. N. Brucoli

March 18
K. E. Camp
P. A. Dobson

March 22
F. A. Friedrich

March 23
D. J. Limbert

March 24
R. Roland

March 27
R. L. Gilliland

March 29
L. N. Green
F. C. Tiberio

March 30
C. M. Lee

March 31
P. B. Cestone
E. F. Sabado

April 1
P. E. Krupko

April 3
B. A. Slabochova

April 4
R. S. Richards

April 5
L. Bloomberg
S. K. Garg

April 8
T. N. Detesco

April 9
A. Z. Rabinowitz

April 10
R. R. Miller
J. J. Anderson
J. Mehta

April 11
R. J. Cuttica

April 12
A. B. Cinelli

April 13
R. J. Heaver

April 15
J. E. Might

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Ralph W. Colla, M.D.
OB-GYN - St. E.
Office: 5500 Market St.
Youngstown, O. 44512



Surjit K. Bal, M.D.
Pathology - St. E.
Office: St. E. Hosp.
Youngstown, O. 44505



Gerald A. Mihok, D.O.
Internal Medicine -
St. E.
Office: 5208 Mahoning
Ave.
Youngstown, O. 44515



Tejinder S. Bal, M.D.
Internal Medicine -
Pulmonary Diseases
Office: St. E. Hosp.
Youngstown, O. 44505



Volker K. H. Sonntag,
M.D.
Neurological Surgery
Office: 550 Parmalee
Ave.
Youngstown, O. 44510

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER IS APRIL 13

The Medical Society's twelfth annual Scholarship Dinner, a unique project to honor achievement in school studies, will be held on Thursday, April 13, at Ramada Inn.

An open, but limited, invitation has been extended to all physicians and their wives to attend as hosts and hostesses for the student guests. The limitation is on the number of couples in attendance, it being custom to seat one couple at each table of eight along with six students.

The dinner honors the top girl and top boy scholar from 25 high schools in the area. Each student will receive a pin and certificate enrolling him or her in the Mahoning County Medical Society's Roster of Scholars for 1978. A complete list of the students will be published in the April issue of the *Bulletin*.

Chairman is Dr. David Pichette. The speaker will be announced.

BOARD RESOLVES CME PROBLEM

The Ohio State Medical Board has ruled that holders of a D.O. degree may now accumulate Category I credits certified by the Ohio State Medical Association, thus solving a problem that was plaguing those members of the Mahoning County Medical Society.

The ruling also permits holders of an M.D. degree to accumulate Category 1 credits through courses offered by the Ohio Osteopathic Association. Now both D.O.s and M.D.s may take advantage of Category 1 courses offered by either medical organization.

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PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL**Feb. 14, 1978**

The regular meeting of the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held on Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1978 at the Youngstown Club.

The following applications for membership were presented by the Censors:

ACTIVE: Charles R. Luttenton, M.D.

ASSOCIATE: Escarlito U. Sevilla, M.D.

The applications were approved. The applicants will become members of the Mahoning County Medical Society 15 days after publication in the *Bulletin*, unless objection is filed in writing with the secretary before that time.

Atty. Eugene Fox came into the meeting and was introduced. He discussed what he considered to be problems between the two professions, mainly in the area of the doctor's role in court cases involving the doctor's patient. Following a general discussion, Dr. Dietz offered to meet with Atty. Fox for further discussion. Dr. Reed presented Atty. Fox a copy of "Standards of Practice Governing Lawyers and Doctors" from the Cleveland Academy of Medicine, and offered to arrange a meeting between representatives of the Bar Association and the Medical Society.

A letter from Mrs. Phyllis Kramer was noted, thanking the Medical Society for the honor extended to Dr. Nelson.

A legislative bulletin was read from the OSMA stating that the Ohio Medical Board now permits D.O.s and M.D.s to get CME credit from programs sponsored by either OSMA or OOA, interchangeably.

A letter was read from Stark County Medical Society announcing their support for the Michigan State Medical Society in their controversy with Michigan Blue Cross Blue Shield. The motion was made, seconded and duly passed that we send a letter of support to the Stark County Medical Society for their resolution.

Dr. Dietz announced that Dr. Felix Pesa has been appointed as the Medical Society representative on the Heart Association's Hypertension Advisory Committee. He will report at the next council meeting.

Dr. Lambert made a report for the Ad Hoc Blue Shield Committee. The report included suggestions for a resolution to OSMA. The motion was made, seconded and duly passed that the report be accepted and that any further suggestions on a resolution be forwarded to our delegates.

The motion was made, seconded and duly passed that the former osteopathic committee be reactivated. The secretary was instructed to check to find the names of members of that committee.

The motion was made, seconded and duly passed that Council approve that all future Bylaw editions be printed in loose-leaf format.

APRIL 15th SET FOR DINNER DANCE

The date for the annual Mahoning County Medical Society dinner-dance has been announced as April 15th by the Woman's Auxiliary committee. This promises to be a unique affair and all members are asked to mark the date on their calendars and plan to attend.

DAYTON WILL HOST OSMA

The 1978 annual meeting of the Ohio State Medical Association will be held at Dayton, May 6-10. Two hotels will serve as OSMA headquarters, Stouffer's Dayton Plaza Hotel and Sheraton Dayton Downtown. Headquarters for the Woman's Auxiliary is Ramada Inn Downtown.

Hotel reservation blanks are printed in every issue of the Ohio State Medical Journal.

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From the Bulletin

FORTY YEARS AGO — MARCH 1938

The reopening of the hospital dispensaries caused quite a stir. It seems that some of the doctors still felt the effects of the money and work shortage during the Depression, and they feared the dispensaries would compete with them.

Dr. James Bennett died after a long and successful practice. He left a son Wendell in practice. Another son was the late Judge Eugene Bennett. His grandson Hugh carries on the name in medicine.

From an article by Samuel R. Zoss: "Allergy in childhood cripples the child just as effectively as Infantile Paralysis."

THIRTY YEARS AGO — MARCH 1948

The annual banquet was held in March that year at the Youngstown Country Club. Members of the "Half Century Club" were honored. Here are their names; see how many you remember: C. H. Beight, H. E. Blott, C. R. Clark, W. D. Coy, C. D. Hauser, M. E. Hayes, R. M. Morrison, H. M. Osborne, W. H. Ryall, C. H. Slosson, R. E. Whelan, A. V. Hinman, and D. R. Williams.

Dr. M. M. Szucs addressed the combined staffs of the Alliance and Salem City Hospitals on "Therapy in Arthritis".

Vernon Goodwin and J. B. Kupec conducted a symposium on "Plastic Surgery" at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

New members of the Society were Nathan Belinky, R. V. Clifford, O. A. Turner, U. A. Melaragno, Louis Bloomberg, John R. LaManna, S. G. Patton, and R. J. Schetz.

TWENTY YEARS AGO — MARCH 1958

President Detesco wrote: "We must work to make life richer for our senior citizens . . . Every retired individual must be impressed with the basic philosophy that purposeful activity is the stimulus to life that prevents physical and emotional deterioration."

Editor Morris Rosenblum predicted that we would be traveling to interplanetary scientific meetings. He didn't say how soon.

District Councilor Gustafson reminded us to urge our patients under 40 years of age to have Polio immunization.

Genevieve Delfs announced that Polio Reminder Cards were available for the members to send to their patients.

There was an absorbing account of the exploits of "Andreas Vesalius of Brussels" in this issue, written by Richard Murray.

New members that month were William Howard Taake of Struthers and William H. Bunn, Jr. of Youngstown. Dr. Taake left soon after to serve in the Air Force. Dr. Bunn was associated in practice with his distinguished father, and later succeeded him as Chief of Medicine in the Youngstown Hospital.

Dr. Wayne Hardin published a most informative article on "Mediastinal Disorders".

Ralph White announced the 66th year of a White's Drug Store in Youngstown.

TEN YEARS AGO — MARCH 1968

Much interest was evident in this issue over the new Federal Regional Medical Program and the areawide comprehensive health planning agencies. Dr. Eli Saadi was elected Vice President of the Northeast Ohio Regional Medical Program. Dr. Richard Murray was Treasurer of the Mahoning Valley Health Planning Association which later became the local agency for the Comprehensive Areawide Health Planning Association. Editor J. James Anderson devoted his editorial toward encouraging Medicine and Govern-

ment to work together to "provide better health care for people who are unable to provide for themselves".

Dr. Jack Schreiber won the Freedoms Foundation for the second year in a row for his speech, "Freedom Isn't Free".

New members that month were both Anesthesiologists, Dr. Danilo Salcedo from St. Elizabeth Hospital, and Dr. John Werning from Youngstown Hospital.

—Robert R. Fisher, M.D.

QUESTIONNAIRE RETURN REQUESTED

Dr. Patrick Brucoli, chairman of the ad hoc physicians' directory committee, asks all members to consider filling out and returning the directory questionnaire which was mailed out in February. At the *Bulletin* publication deadline, 102 members have returned the questionnaire, signifying their willingness to have their names listed in a directory which the Medical Society proposes to publish as a service to the community.

Classified Advertising

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The Medical Society will accept donations of medical memorabilia for museum display or historical collection. Desire old instruments, photos, office items, books, magazines, bottles, certificates, knick-knacks, anything related to the doctor's office or medicine in general. Will pick up. Phone:

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All Guild members are urged to attend.

Prospective members are welcome.

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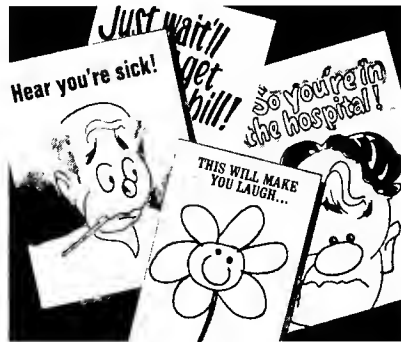
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